

REMARKS

Claims 3-19, 22-24 and 26-43 are pending in the Application, of which, claims 22, 36 and 39 are independent. Claims 22, 36 and 39 are amended to further emphasize the proactive nature of the extracting and identifying that is recited in these claims.

More specifically, the term “extracting” in claim 22 is amended to “proactively extracting” in order to emphasize the proactive nature of “extraction” that is performed by the inventive system as it was argued in the response filed to the previous and final Office action of October 4, 2007. Similarly, terms “monitoring ... to identify” of claim 36 and “monitoring ... [and] identifying” of claim 39 are amended to “monitoring ... to proactively identify” and “monitoring ... [and] proactively identifying” in the current response.

Claims 22 and 36 are system and apparatus claims. For example in claim 22, it is clear from the recited elements “an interface to a monitor displaying a document being currently viewed by a user, the user operating a task on the system; a monitoring system monitoring the document via the interface and proactively extracting searchable text elements from the document being currently viewed” that the “task” is performed by the user and the “monitoring” and “extracting” are performed by the “monitoring system.” (Emphasis added.) Therefore, it is understood that “proactively extracting” is clearly performed by a machine. A similar situation exists with claim 36. Claim 39 is a method claim that is further amended to include “A method for operating a computer system, a task is performed by a user on the system, the method being performed by the computer system, the method comprising” As such, the preamble further clarifies that the machine is the entity doing the “monitoring ... [and the] proactively identifying” and not the user.

Applicants submit that the proactive monitoring and extracting or identifying feature is pervasive through the specification of the application. Starting with the Abstract, the specification states: "In various embodiments, the systems and methods monitor the user's current context and check for matches. The systems and methods then assign a score to each match and unobtrusively present at least some of the matches to the user based on the assigned score." (Abstract of the current Application.) Many of the paragraphs repeat the same concept or variations and aspect of it. (See, e.g., paragraphs [0009], [0015] and [0018] of the published Application.)

Applicants respectfully submit that this feature of the invention has been previously brought to the attention of Examiner in the context of claim 22 and Applicants' arguments regarding this feature were not addressed in the current Office action.

I. Examiner Interview

A telephone interview was conducted on June 13, 2008, between Examiner Saeed and F. Sirjani, as the representative of the Applicants. Applicants agreed to include the term "proactively" in the independent claims and the Examiner agreed that inclusion of this term would help further the prosecution.

Applicants appreciate the time allotted by the Examiner for the interview and the guidance provided by the Examiner during the interview.

II. Rejection based on 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Examiner has rejected claims 3-5, 7-10, 13, 15, 16-19, 22-24, 26, 28-29, 31-33, 34-37, and 38-43 under 35 U.S.C.103(a) rejection as allegedly unpatentable over Julien (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0129011) in view of Bell (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0044785) in view of Kubota (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,323).

Claims 6, 11, 12, 14 and 27 are rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Julien in view of Bell and further in view of Kubota and further in view of Lamburt (U.S. Patent No. 6,374,241). Claim 30 is rejected as allegedly unpatentable over Julien in view of Bell, further in view of Kubota and further in view of Othmer (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0064317).

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections in view of the amendments to the claims and further in view of the following arguments.

Applicants' Comment Regarding the Discussion of Claims 22 and 39

In the previous amendment that was filed in response to the final Office action of October 4, 2007, at least three novel and non-obvious features of claim 22 were pointed out by the Applicants: "the currently viewed" nature of the document from which searchable text elements are extracted; the proactive nature of the "extracting" feature of the monitoring system; and "displays ... without disrupting the user's task" feature of the claim.

The Office action selects independent claim 36 for a detailed discussion. (Office action, pp. 3-6.) Then, the Office action dismisses claims 22 and 39 as "Claims 22 and 39 are same as claim 36 and are rejected for the same reasons as applied hereinabove." (Office action, p. 6.) In doing so, the arguments presented by the Applicants go unanswered in the Office action.

Claim 36 includes "a current document being viewed ... proactively identify searchable text elements within the current document ... a data output device that notifies a user of contacts ... without disrupting user's current task ...and without disrupting display of said current document." Only the term "proactively" is added by amendment in the current office action, while the inherently proactive nature of "identify [and/or extract] searchable ... elements" was argued in detail in the previous response with respect to claim 22.

The newly cited reference **Bell** is cited for teaching “current document” feature of claim 36; both **Julien** and **Kubota** were and are cited again for teaching “identify searchable ... elements” and presumable against the “extracting searchable text elements” of claim 22; and **Julien** was and is cited again for teaching the “without disrupting” feature of claim 36.

In other words, two out of the three features that were emphasized and argued in the previously filed response are not addressed by the Examiner in the current Office action.

Some of the previously presented arguments regarding Julien and Kubota are repeated below. The discussion of Bell is added.

The arguments provided in the previous response apply with equal force in this response. For the sake of brevity, this response focuses on the “proactively identify” or “proactively extract” features of the claims.

Response to the Discussion of Julien and Kubota in the Current Office action

As stated above, the Office action discusses claim 36.

Both Julien and Kubota are cited for teaching “an information monitoring device for monitoring a current document being viewed by a user and being displayed on a computer display to ... identify searchable text elements within the current document” of claim 36. (See, Office action, p. 3 and p. 5.)

Julien

The Office action, states that Julien teaches “monitoring a document on a computer display to ... identify searchable text elements within the document” of claim 36 in paragraph [0030] of this reference “as the input 24 receives from workstation 12 an input signal conveying at least one instruction.” (Office action, p. 3, emphasis added.)

Julien uses either a URL or a keyword to search for contact information. (See, e.g., Julien figures 3 and 4.) Both situations involve direct entry by the user. In both situations the system prompts the user before receiving the entry. In the embodiments shown in figures 2 and 3, the user inputs the URL, from which the contact information is to be collected, to the system 20 in response to a prompt from the system 20. (Julien, [0031].)

As explained in more detail in the previous response, the Office action is citing to the search and extraction of the information elements from a website by Julien against the “identify searchable text elements” of the claim. As the quote from Office action shows, Julien does so in response to an instruction: “The input 24 receives from the workstation 12 an input signal conveying at least one instruction governing the collection of the specific information.” (Julien, paragraph [0030]; see also figure 2.) This operation is not proactive identifying or extraction. Julien does not include a monitoring system that would quietly watch the user without interrupting him and would identify which part of what the user is viewing or inputting is a search string. In short, Applicants were unable to locate a passage in Julien that teaches or suggests “monitoring a document on a computer display to ... identify searchable text elements within the document” of claim 36 or “a monitoring system ... proactively extracting searchable text elements from the document being currently viewed” of claim 22.

Kubota

Abstract and figure 11 of Kubota are also cited for teaching “an information monitoring device for monitoring a current document being viewed by a user and being displayed on a computer display to ... identify searchable text elements within the current document” of claim 36. (Office action, pp. 5-6.)

As indicated by Figure 11 of Kubota, a search prompt is displayed and the user has to input a search term and activate the search by clicking on “Run Search”, “Initialize” or “Erase Results”.

As such, as presented in more detail in the response to the previous Office action, Kubota also requires the user to input the search term and does not do “monitoring ... to ... identify” or “proactively identify” anything.

Therefore, Kubota does not appear to teach or suggest “monitoring a current document ... to proactively identify searchable text elements” of claim 36 or “monitoring the document via the interface and proactively extracting searchable text elements from the document” of claim 22.

Bell

Bell is cited for teaching “monitoring a current document being viewed by a user on a display” feature of claim 39. (Office action, p. 4.) The Office action continues that the “user can indicate or command at the user’s option” (Id.)

Applicants submit that in many applications users, themselves are monitoring a current document on their screen for different purposes. As such, finding a document that teaches the viewing a current document, alone and disconnected from the remainder of the claim does not teach the claim or render it obvious.

Further, Bell does not cure the deficiencies of Julien and Kubota with respect to teaching or suggesting “proactively identifying” or “proactively extracting” of the claims.

The Office action continues “It would have been obvious ... to combine ... because Bell’s teaching would have allowed Julien to provide a mechanism for a device user to determine which of one or more applications running on the device can automatically store relevant

information” (Office action, p. 5.) This again requires user interaction and runs against “proactively identifying” or “proactively extracting” of the claims.

Claim 22

Claim 22 recites “An information retrieval system, comprising: a database that stores contact information; an interface to a monitor displaying a document being currently viewed by a user, the user operating a task on the system; a monitoring system monitoring the document via the interface and proactively extracting searchable text elements from the document being currently viewed; and a contact information retrieval system that retrieves contact information from the database based on the searchable text elements and that displays the retrieved contact information without disrupting the user's task and the document displayed on the system.” (Emphasis added.)

Applicants submit that, as explained above, claim 22 is patentable in view of the cited references, Julien, Kubota and Bell, whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 36

As explained above, Julien, Kubota and Bell, taken alone or in combination, do not appear to teach or suggest “a current document being viewed ... proactively identify searchable text elements within the current document ... a data output device that notifies a user of contacts ... without disrupting display of said current document” of claim 36.

Applicants submit that claim 36 is patentable in view of the cited references whether taken alone or in combination.

Claim 39

As explained above, Julien, Kubota and Bell, taken alone or in combination, do not appear to teach or suggest “the method being performed by the computer system ...monitoring ...

a current document displayed on a user monitor; proactively identifying searchable portion on the current document ... displaying the contact information on the monitor ... without disrupting user's task and the document displayed on the computer" of claim 39.

Amendment to the preamble emphasizes that the steps are performed by the machine as opposed to the person.

Applicants submit that claim 39 is patentable in view of the cited references whether taken alone or in combination.

Dependent Claims

Lamburt is cited for teaching the "comparing the assigned scores for each match to a threshold score value" and Othmer is cited for teaching the "assigns a partial score." As such, the cited portions of these references do not appear to cure the deficiency of Julien, Kubota and Bell in teaching or suggesting all elements of the independent claims and the independent claims of this Application are believed to remain patentable over all of the cited references.

Claims 23, 24, 26-35 and 43 depend from claim 22. Claims 37, 38 and 42 depend from claim 36. Claims 3-19 and 41 depend from claim 39.

With respect to the rejection of dependent claims while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of the references used by the Examiner in rejecting these claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable by definition, by virtue of their dependence upon their respective patentable independent claims.

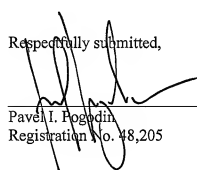
Withdrawal of the rejections of all of the pending claims and allowance of all of these claims are requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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